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WomanBusiness Enterprise, SBA Hubzone

January 11, 2002

John Ashcroft, Attorney General

US Justice Department

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

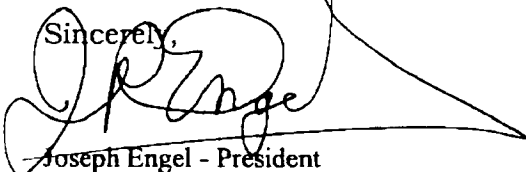
I understand how many could assume that Microsoft has been a bit overprotective regarding its software, and this may have led to the perception that Microsoft was trying to monopolize the market. However, much that has been said regarding their so-called "monopolistic" tendencies is simply rhetoric. What Microsoft has done to protect its proprietary products is both prudent and reasonable.

I therefore believe that the origins of this lawsuit are more because of Microsoft's competitors' efforts at using our legal system to force Microsoft to give up part of its own product code, rather than from any actual unfair monopoly.

This is but one area that the recent settlement addresses.

While I have not had the time nor the motivation to pore over every detail of this settlement, at first blush it appears to cover all the points of the lawsuit – and then some. If anything, the settlement may have gone too far, but since both parties have agreed to it, then it is better to get on with it. I am therefore writing this letter to urge its final acceptance.

Sincerely,



Joseph Engel - President

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